/138 cont'd/

Third month, fourth day. (Thursday)

164 Yüan-chiung had to get up over ten times last night because of dysentery. He cannot eat and feels so weak and depressed that it worries me. For the past two or three days my throat has been unusually parched, and today when I talk sometimes I can't make a sound. We suspect that our ailments have been caused by the impure drinking water. As the Miao live high in the mountains with
312 no streams and rivers around, all the drinking water has to be gathered from bamboo pipes in which water drop by drop is led down from the mountain tops and therefore is very dirty. We feel this is no proper place for us to stay any longer and have decided to return to Ta-ch'i immediately. But the rain has kept us from starting our
000 trip. I have spent the day in copying a number of Miao songs and legends and trying to learn the style of singing Miao songs. That the outcome of not going today was to be able to gather this unexpected material made me very happy.

527 At night the villagers gathered and contributed money and rice to have a banquet, and this was the end of the chung jen chai.

Third month, fifth day. (Friday)

000 At three o'clock in the morning I was awakened from my dreams by Yüan-chiung. He said that his dysentery was not over, and he could not hang on in this place any longer and wished to leave Ang-chi for Pao-t'ing in the morning. After some deliberation, we decided to leave here to return to Ta-ch'i first, and there we would decide whether or not to go to Pao-t'ing, depending on his condition. As our plans would be considerably affected once we left Pao-t'ing, we had to think it over rather carefully.

484 Around ten o'clock in the morning, we started to leave Ang-
[193] chi to return to Ta-ch'i, braving a heavy rain. The Miao prepared
[134] a sedan chair for Yüan-chiung, and I followed closely on foot. Because of the all-day rain mountain leeches were everywhere. How many times they climbed up my legs and filled their stomachs with my blood before I discovered them!

/139 cont'd/

Third month, seventh day. (Sunday)

There was a dense fog this morning, and as we could not go out, I wrote several letters. As one of Mr. Wang's workmen intended to leave Oao-t'ing today, I gave him the letter to mail. Yüan-chiung's sickness was completely over by this time, and he had recovered his spirits. We roamed all day long in the neighboring Ch'i and Hsiao villages. In a number of places we saw Hsiao girls at work hulling rice, /140/ but, seeing the approach of strangers, they hid away immediately, so that we had no chance to take pictures of them.

In the afternoon a Chinese peddler came from Pao-t'ing with a load of black fish for sale. We bought two and a half catties for two hundred copper coins, and they made a rare dish in this deep mountain valley.

Third month, eighth day. (Monday)

This morning the fog was again dense till eight o'clock when the sun broke through. We walked leisurely to the lower Hsiao village on the other side. The village was occupied entirely by Hsiao, ten families in all, with three names, Li, Liu, and Huang. Headman /pao chang/ Li welcomed us warmly to his house, and we had a long, pleasant conversation together. When we were leaving, he sent his workmen to carry several catties of potatoes to be brought back with us. In return we gave him gifts of salt, kerosene, candles, etc.

In the afternoon we went to the upper Hsiao village to attend a Hsiao wedding. The bride was already thirty years old and had been married before to a Hsiao of Ta-pen village. When her husband died, she had brought her son and daughter back to live with her mother. Now she was to be married for the second time to a Hsiao of the same village. The bridegroom was of about the same age. At the ceremony the couple did not appear in any special apparel; they wore just plain clothes, a little cleaner than usual.

4:Mickey E-5 (1940-?) 1947 AE5 Miao AE5

The villages of
Sze-nan and San-kioh both are important lumber centers. 313

Tigers are reported in the northeastern part of the province. There are also said to be wolves, wild boars, white pheasants, and giant salamanders. I have seen wild cats in the hills and rabbits for sale in the market at Kweiyang. There are many domestic animals, including "yellow cows," water buffalo, pigs, sheep, goats, ducks, geese, and chickens. The first two are used as draft animals, for plowing. There are no full-sized horses, but ponies and small mules are used as pack animals. 136 231

In mineral wealth Kweichow is considered to have greater possibilities than any other province of China. Coal is common and may be had for merely scratching the surface. The richest mercury mines in the world are in Kweichow. It is the only mineral exported, although from the iron in Wei-ning cooking vessels are manufactured which are sold all over Yünnan, as well as Kweichow. In addition, there are gold, silver, copper, and nitrate of potash in sufficient quantities to warrant mining them. 135

The province should also be of great interest to botanists. I met in Kweiyang an Austrian who had collected over three hundred species of plants. As I went to market from the mountain village in which I was living to Lung-li I would count the flowering plants I saw. There were never fewer than thirty in blossom, many times more than fifty. At times the hills would be rosy with azaleas, at other times blue with bluebells of several kinds, while during their season more than a hundred white lilies would be in view at certain points. Hedges of wild roses border some of the paths. There are wild fruit trees, berries, and flowering vines. Nearly every flowering plant we grow with much care in our gardens is found wild on the Kweichow mountains. 137

[158 cont.]

231 logs with the floor slightly raised by means of logs laid horizontally
343 on the ground. (Photo 116, Plate 27.) Naturally, this pen for the animals is no more frequently cleaned than is the inside of the house, with the result that the liquid manure and the excrement soon form nauseous seas which it is necessary to cross painfully in order to reach the house.

The "Méo" have excellent little horses (average height – about
231 1.20 meters, like the Chinese or Tonkinese horses) sturdy, sensible, very handy, and very sure-footed. These horses are never groomed, are fed with a little grass (a special grass called "ma-tsao" or horse's grass), with bamboo leaves and a few handfuls of maize. They gen-
[343] erally are tied under a little lean-to resting against the house.

The "Méo-" have a special breed of white dogs, with silky and very thick hair of medium length.

The fowls (hens, guinea hens, ducks, and so on) roam at
[343] liberty around the house during the day and roost at night in a coop usually located above or near to the stable. The wildcats, which
[136] are numerous in the mountains of Upper Tonkin, frequently do frightful slaughter among the "Méo" poultry.

In view of their spirit of independence, the "Méo" most often
361 live off by themselves, in groups of five or six cabins, and only very seldom form sizeable settlements. However, in the region of Pha-Long – Pakha, where the "Méo" group forms the majority of the population, several "Méo" villages exist which number from twenty to thirty cabins. Be that as it may, the "Méo" village is always perched very near to the summits of the mountains, at the foot of the crags; difficult mule-trails with very abrupt slopes permit access to these villages; still the climb on foot is infinitely preferable to the trip on horseback.

("Méo" houses appear in the following photographs: 346, Plate 36; 347, Plate 41; 445, Plate 38; 135, Plate 43. The last three show villages.)

In the hamlets and villages of the "Méo," the houses are built
361 according to the inclination of the occupants, without thought of
364 alignment or of streets, the enclosures for the animals close to the dwelling houses. Despite the open air and the sun which bathe the

39: Bernatzik--463 E-5 (1936-1937) 1947 AO1 Thailand
Miao AE5

/341 cont./

224 accompanying me had sought refuge weeks and months ago when they were attacked by wounded gaur. The hunters had succeeded in escaping behind the tree trunk, but the horns of the raging wild oxen had penetrated into the trunk to a depth of ten centimeters.

Despite all their courage, stalking is seldom successful, since the density of the forest permits shots at only a few meters' distance, but the hunter betrays his presence to the animal at more than 100 meters by the noise which he cannot avoid making. Under these circumstances lying in ambush at the haunts or watering places of game is much more promising. For the big cats that have seized a head of livestock, the Meau build themselves a high place near the carcass for an ambush. If the hunters, however, succeed /342/ in finding a [135] salt spring such as sometimes occurs in northern Thailand, the Meau are often able to bag considerable game by this [136] method. Here the Meau successfully hunt even gaur, tigers, and the Indian rhinoceros, a few specimens of which lead a hidden existence there.

Elephant hunting is usually practiced among the Meau by stalking, since the pachyderms are not very sensitive to noise. [237] For this, however, the hunters smear fresh elephant dung all over themselves, since they maintain that with this masking scent they are able to approach the pachyderms, even in an adverse wind, up to a distance of only 15 steps. Although I could not decide in favor of this method myself, I believe that this assertion is quite possible.

In their ambush the Meau often use all kinds of lures about five centimeters and more in size (Fig. 257), in order to attract the game. In this connection a tree fruit is used as a vibrating pellet in the bamboo body of the instrument. During the rutting season the call of the female animal is imitated with blades of grass and leaves, which are clamped between the two thumbs, in order to attract the male muntjac. Similar methods are used for deer and many other game animals. Small beasts of prey are lured by means of the sound of a dying

39: Bernatzik--479 E-5 (1936-1937) 1947 AO1 Thailand
Miao AES

/352 cont./

226 ashes into the mass, and pour it all into the inlet of the pools.
[278] It takes only a few minutes for the stupefied fish to come to the surface. In a short time, the stream is "cleared" of fish, but not only at this spot, for the poison flowing downstream kills for miles farther on primarily the young fish, for which even the diluted poison is still fatal, though it is no longer dangerous for the larger fish.

[227] Fishing is also done with hooks without barbs and with small hand-nets (see the chapter, "Handicrafts," Fig. 347), as well as with simple weirs (Fig. 266). The latter are 60
[285] centimeters high and /Fig. 266 appears here/ plaited loosely out of bamboo strips five millimeters wide, so that only larger fish and crabs are caught. The weirs are put in the brooks. This kind of fishing, in contrast to the fishing methods described, plays only a minor role, although the
[857] young lads in particular like to practice it. In addition, the Meau are masters at catching fish with their hands. They cautiously probe the hiding places of the fish under the stones and roots and, with lightning speed, seize the animals by their gills as they calmly remain in their hiding places. At
[165] this sport, however, many Meau have fallen victim to
[136] poisonous water-snakes.

[221] The time for fishing is after the harvest in the dry season. Then the streams have reached their lowest water level, and a narrow channel connects the deep pools where the fish seek safety. Then every fishing method of the Meau, with the exception of angling with hooks, is productive. The latter, on the other hand, is practiced only at the time of rising water, when the clear water is made turbid by downpours.

[184] Fishing baskets, dams, fences, fixed nets or drag nets,
[227] fishing spears, and /353/ fishing arrows for crossbows or bows are, like harpoons, unknown to the Meau in Thailand.

/367 cont./

231 The dogs kept in northern Thailand to guard the houses differ completely from the breed of dog that Lajonquière (1) /see footnote 1 above/ described in his enumeration of the domestic animals of the Meau and from the animals described by Abadie (3) as having white, silky, longish, and very thick

3. Page 158.

fur. Innumerable barking dogs, red, black, and more rarely white in color, which resemble the Chinese chow, but are slenderer in body build and somewhat weaker, are found here. They feed on scraps and all kinds of refuse and, as has been mentioned, regard human feces as precious delicacies. For the Meau dogs are also animals to be killed in order to create a guardian spirit, as has /368/ been described in detail in the chapter, "Religion and Magic" (the section, "Magic, Sooth-saying, Interpretation of Omens"). The meat of dogs is not [262] eaten any more than is that of the numerous cats that watch for mice in the houses, granaries, and stables.

Chickens are also very important. They are present in every household and are identical with the small wild fowl, the original form of our domestic chicken. They, too, are put in special coops during the night by the Meau (see the chapter, "Settlement and House Construction," Figs. 80-82) and are regularly fed twice a day. At harvest time they are taken in special carrying baskets (chapter, "Handicrafts," Figs. 338 and 339) to the harvested fields, in which abundant feed is still to be found. Abadie (1) gives a similar description about Indo-

1. Page 158.

china: "The poultry (chickens, turkeys, ducks, etc.) roam about freely during the day and sleep in a chicken coop which is usually above or next to the stable. Tiger cats, which are [136] common in the mountains of Upper Tonkin, often kill hecatombs of the poultry of the Meau."